

### *Amendments to the Claims*

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims.

1-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) A method for ~~the treatment of a patient having need of HMF administering to the patient a therapeutically~~ stimulating the proliferation and differentiation of hematopoietic progenitor cells, comprising contacting bone marrow cells with an effective amount of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polypeptide comprising residues 1 to 142 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a polypeptide comprising residues 2 to 142 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (c) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC<sup>®</sup> Deposit No. 75514; and
- (d) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the mature polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC<sup>®</sup> Deposit No. 75514

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the polypeptide is (a).

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient suffering from ~~treat~~ leukemia.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient suffering from a ~~treat~~ blood-related disorder[[s]].

31-35 (canceled)

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the polypeptide is (b).

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the polypeptide is administered to ~~treat~~ a patient suffering from leukemia.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the polypeptide is administered to ~~treat~~ a patient suffering from a blood-related disorder[[s]].

39-43 (canceled)

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the polypeptide is (c).

45. (currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the polypeptide is administered to ~~treat~~ a patient suffering from leukemia.

46. (currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the polypeptide is administered to ~~treat~~ a patient suffering from a blood-related disorder[[s]].

47-51 (canceled)

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the polypeptide is (d).

53. (currently amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the polypeptide is administered to ~~treat~~ a patient suffering from leukemia.

54. (currently amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the polypeptide is administered to ~~treat~~ a patient suffering from a blood-related disorder[[s]].

55-59 (canceled)

60. (new) A method for promoting the removal of malignant cells, comprising contacting immature malignant leukemia cells with an effective amount of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polypeptide comprising residues 1 to 142 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a polypeptide comprising residues 2 to 142 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (c) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC<sup>®</sup> Deposit No. 75514; and
- (d) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the mature polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC<sup>®</sup> Deposit No. 75514;

wherein the amount of polypeptide is effective to stimulate differentiation of immature malignant leukemia cells.

61. (new) The method of claim 60, wherein the polypeptide is (a).

62. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient suffering from leukemia.

63. (new) The method of claim 60, wherein the polypeptide is (b).

64. (new) The method of claim 63, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient suffering from leukemia.

65. (new) The method of claim 60, wherein the polypeptide is (c).

66. (new) The method of claim 65, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient suffering from leukemia.

67. (new) The method of claim 60, wherein the polypeptide is (d).

68. (new) The method of claim 67, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient suffering from leukemia.

69. (new) A method for stimulating the proliferation of stromal cells, comprising contacting stromal cells with an effective amount of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polypeptide comprising residues 1 to 142 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a polypeptide comprising residues 2 to 142 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (c) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC<sup>®</sup> Deposit No. 75514; and
- (d) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the mature polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC<sup>®</sup> Deposit No. 75514.

70. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the polypeptide is (a).

71. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the polypeptide is (b).

72. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the polypeptide is (c).
73. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the polypeptide is (d).
74. (new) A method for stimulating the proliferation and differentiation of CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells, comprising contacting T-cells with an effective amount of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a polypeptide comprising residues 1 to 142 of SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (b) a polypeptide comprising residues 2 to 142 of SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (c) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC<sup>®</sup> Deposit No. 75514; and
  - (d) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the mature polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC<sup>®</sup> Deposit No. 75514.
75. (new) The method of claim 74, wherein the polypeptide is (a).
76. (new) The method of claim 75, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient suffering from leukemia.
77. (new) The method of claim 75, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient infected with HIV.
78. (new) The method of claim 74, wherein the polypeptide is (b).
79. (new) The method of claim 78, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient suffering from leukemia.
80. (new) The method of claim 78, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient infected with HIV.
81. (new) The method of claim 74, wherein the polypeptide is (c).
82. (new) The method of claim 81, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient suffering from leukemia.

83. (new) The method of claim 81, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient infected with HIV.

84. (new) The method of claim 74, wherein the polypeptide is (d).

85. (new) The method of claim 84, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient suffering from leukemia.

86. (new) The method of claim 84, wherein the polypeptide is administered to a patient infected with HIV.

87. (new) A method for stimulating the proliferation of thymocytes, comprising contacting thymocytes cells with an effective amount of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polypeptide comprising residues 1 to 142 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a polypeptide comprising residues 2 to 142 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (c) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC<sup>®</sup> Deposit No. 75514; and
- (d) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the mature polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC<sup>®</sup> Deposit No. 75514.

88. (new) The method of claim 87, wherein the polypeptide is (a).

89. (new) The method of claim 87, wherein the polypeptide is (b).

90. (new) The method of claim 87, wherein the polypeptide is (c).

91. (new) The method of claim 87, wherein the polypeptide is (d).

92. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein said bone marrow cells are contacted with said polypeptide *in vitro*.

93. (new) The method of claim 60, wherein said leukemia cells are contacted with said polypeptide *in vitro*.

94. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein said stromal cells are contacted with said polypeptide *in vitro*.

95. (new) The method of claim 74, wherein said T-cells are contacted with said polypeptide *in vitro*.

96. (new) The method of claim 87, wherein said thymocytes are contacted with said polypeptide *in vitro*.